

Police, FBI Sued For Raid

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A former Alexandria woman yesterday filed a \$350,000 damage suit charging that FBI agents and Alexandria police officers violated her constitutional and state rights when they forced their way into her apartment last March in search of then-fugitive newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst.

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, said that a "raiding party" of agents and police officers, acting on "unreliable and sketchy information," illegally entered Elizabeth Ann Norton's apartment without a warrant and used excessive force.

The suit said that six to eight men, dressed in plain clothes, came into the apartment armed with riot guns and other weapons.

At the time, a spokesman for the FBI said the agents were responding to a tip that Miss Hearst was at the apartment. The FBI said later that Miss Norton's roommate, Bernadine Davis, then 24, resembled Miss Hearst. Miss Davis was not in the apartment at the time of the incident.

Miss Hearst was apprehended by FBI agents in San Francisco's Mission District last Sept. 18.

At the time of the Alexandria break-in on March 15, Miss Norton, then 21, was alone in her apartment at 10:10 p.m. when a male voice demanded entrance and claimed to be from the FBI, the suit said. Miss Norton now lives in West Virginia.

The men refused Miss Norton's request for a warrant or a telephone number to verify who they were and also refused to slip their identification under her apartment door, the suit said.

Someone then said, "Knock it down," and began to pound on the apartment door, the suit alleged. Miss Norton then "became hysterical and unlocked the door," the suit said.

The armed men questioned Miss Norton but did not display their identification badges until 15 minutes after they entered the apartment, the suit alleged.